

00862.022285.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Prior Examiner: H. Nguyen
Yutaka TANAKA et al.)	
	:	Prior Group Art Unit: 2851
Application No.: Divisional of Appln. No. 09/897,930,)	
filed July 5, 2001	:	
)	
Filed: April 15, 2004	:	
)	
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR	:	
PROCESSING SAMPLE IN PREDETERMINED)	April 15, 2004
ATMOSPHERE	:	

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

These documents were cited during prosecution of copending parent application number 09/897,930, filed July 5, 2001.

Japanese patent document number 2-100311 is discussed on page 1 of the subject specification and corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,524,131, copy also enclosed.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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SEW/eab

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) April 15, 2004				ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022285.1		APPLICATION NO. Divisional of Appln. No. 09/897,930, filed July 5, 2001	
				APPLICANT Yutaka TANAKA et al.			
				FILING DATE April 15, 2004		GROUP 2851	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-5,871,587	02/16/1999	Hasegawa et al.	118	719	
		US-5,578,129	11/26/1996	Moriya	118	719	
		US-5,828,572	10/27/1998	Hasegawa et al.	364	468.24	
		US-6,133,981	10/17/2000	Semba	355	27	
		US-5,093,579	03/03/1992	Amemiya et al.	250	453.1	
		US-5,172,403	12/15/1992	Tanaka et al.	378	34	
		US-5,524,131	06/04/1996	Uzawa et al.	378	34	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		2-100311	04/12/1990	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.